



NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

---

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH.

1896.

---






NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

---

REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH.

1896.

---



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29921831>

# Northwich Urban District.

---

## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

---

**Medical Officer of Health**, after March 25th; Henry E. Gough.

**Population at Census 1891**, 14,914.

**Estimated Population at middle of 1896**, 17,800.

**Area in Acres**, 1,758.

**Birth Rate per 1,000 living**, 38·19.

**Death Rate per 1,000 living**, 17·69.

**Death Rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases**, 3·3.

**Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births**, 170.

The area of the Urban District, as furnished during the last few years to the Local Government Board, is 1,758 acres. This is noteworthy, as the acreage has been varied considerably in different reports, while the boundaries have remained stationary.

During 1896 the number of births registered was 685, and the number of deaths registered was 327. Twenty-three of the deaths occurred in the Union Workhouse and nine in the Victoria Infirmary. Fifteen deaths were registered of persons not belonging to this Urban



District, and have been added to the deaths in the districts to which they belonged. There are also two deaths to be added to this number which were registered in other districts of persons belonging to Northwich, thus making the actual reduction thirteen instead of fifteen, and the corrected number of deaths 314.

The mean birth rate during the three years 1893-5 was 39·8. The mean death rate during the same three years was 19·2. Thus in 1896 the birth rate was 1·6 less and the death rate 1·5 less than the average for the three preceding years.

The number of births registered in the first quarter was 177, in the second 179, in the third 156, and in the fourth 173. The number of deaths (deducting those not belonging to the district) registered in the first quarter was 66, in the second 68, in the third 75, and in the last 118. The death rate in the four quarters was 14·8 in the first, 15·1 in the second, 16·8 in the third, and 26·5 in the last. The great increase in the last quarter was due chiefly to diseases of the lungs.

**The Zymotic Death Rate** was 3·3 per thousand, the total number of deaths being 33. Two of these deaths occurred in the first quarter, one being due to typhoid fever and one to scarlet fever. Four occurred during the second quarter, two being from measles and one each from typhoid fever and diarrhœa. Eleven in the third quarter, 6 of which were due to diarrhœa, 4 to scarlatina, and one to typhoid fever. During the fourth quarter 16 were recorded, scarlet fever and whooping cough each causing 6, diarrhœa 2, typhoid fever and measles one each.

**Infant Mortality.**—117 of the deaths registered were of infants under one year old, 28 being from diseases of the lungs, 25 convulsions, 17 inflammation of the stomach and bowels and diarrhœa, 14 premature birth, 12 marasmus, 5 tubercular affections, 4 malformations at birth, 2 syphilis, 2 meningitis, 1 nephritis, 1 phthisis, 2 measles, 1 whooping cough, and 3 found dead in bed. 23 were registered in the first quarter, 35 in the second, 17 in the third, and 42 in the last. Of the 117 infants 79 were not 6 months old at the time of death.

The proportion of births to deaths was equal to 170 per thousand in 1896, in the three years 1893-5 it averaged 194 per thousand. Thus about one out of every six children born in Northwich dies before it reaches 12 months of age.

**Infectious Diseases.**—The total number of infectious diseases notified was 243, viz., 205 scarlet fever, 18 typhoid fever, 16 erysipelas, 3 diphtheria, and 1 puerperal fever.

They were all treated in their own homes.

The annexed table shows the numbers of fresh cases during each month and quarter:—

	Scarlatina.	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Total No. of Infectious Diseases.
January .....	7	5	1	..	..	13
February .....	10	1	2	2	..	15
March.....	21	2	..	1	..	24
First Quarter	38	8	3	3	0	52
April .....	15	2	..	3	..	20
May.....	8	..	..	1	..	9
June .....	3	..	..	..	..	3
Second Quarter	26	2	0	4	0	32
July .....	13	1	..	..	1	15
August .....	27	2	..	2	..	31
September.....	21	2	..	1	..	24
Third Quarter..	61	5	0	3	1	70
October .....	24	2	..	3	..	29
November .....	32	1	..	..	..	33
December .....	24	..	..	3	..	27
Fourth Quarter	80	3	0	6	0	89

**Scarlet Fever.**—There have been 205 cases of this disease notified during the year, against 65 during last year; in the year 1892 there were 88 cases; 186 cases in 1893; 44 cases in 1894; 65 cases in 1895, which shows that the disease is a more or less constant feature in the ill-health of the district. The epidemic began in the last quarter of 1895, during which period 35 cases occurred. The disease is characterized for the most part by its exceedingly benign character, and many cases undoubtedly passed unrecognized and therefore unnotified.

There were 11 deaths in all; one in the first quarter, none in the second, four in the third, and six in the last. Of this number five were certified as due directly to the fever, the remainder to complications and *sequelae*, two being convulsions, and one from each of the

following : pneumonia, suppurative otitis and meningitis, nephritis, and laryngitis. Four were under 2 years of age, none being more than 8 years old.

**Typhoid Fever.**—Eighteen cases were notified, 8 in the first quarter, three of which were in the same house, and notified on the same day.

Of the other cases there was nothing resembling an epidemic with the exception of four cases in close proximity, the first of which was notified on the 16th of August, followed by another on the 22nd in the same house. On the 6th of October, a third case was reported in a house about 50 yards further in the same road, but this was an imported case—and proved fatal—the man coming to lodge there, when very ill with the disease fully developed, from the seaside. This house was a newly built and well situated one, and nothing of an insanitary nature connected with it. The fourth case was reported on the 23rd November, in the same row of houses, and only a few doors away from the house in which the two first cases occurred. This row of houses was cellared and the cellars drained by a drain running from end to end of the row under the houses and communicating direct with the main sewer. The traps were old-fashioned with very shallow seals, and as they were seldom flushed often became useless ; the drain was blocked and the sudden flushing of cellars at the upper end forced the sewage water into the cellars, not only through the traps but even between the bricks of the floor. The cellars have been re-trapped, the drain re-laid and disconnected from the sewer, and no further case of sickness has been reported. All three cases recovered. Of the four deaths, one occurred in each of the following months, viz.:—March, May, August, and October, and the ages of the deceased were 26, 21, 38, and 33 years respectively.

**Puerperal Fever.**—Only one case has been notified throughout the year, and that occurred in July, but one death was certified as due to puerperal fever in April which was not notified.

**Erysipelas.**—Sixteen cases of this disease have been notified during the year ; none have been fatal. Three occurred in the first quarter, four in the second, three in the third, and six in the last.

**Measles.**—It is impossible to get any reliable information of the actual number of cases, but twice during the year was the disease epidemic to some extent in the district, in the second and fourth quarters of the year. Two deaths were registered from measles in



May, and one in October, all three being under five years of age at the time of death.

**Whooping Cough.**—There was a somewhat extensive epidemic of this disease during the last quarter of the year. Five deaths were registered, one in October, two in November, and two in December. One case was aged five, and all the others were under three years of age.

**Diarrhœa.**—From this disease the Table A shows 21 cases below five years of age, and five cases above that age. In this are included cases of enteritis, the number in which the death certificate actually bore the term diarrhœa being nine. One was registered in April (aet. 17 months), three in July (aet. 12 months, 3 months, and 56 years), three in August (aet. 1 month, 15 months, and 3 years), two in December (aet. 14 months and 9 years).

**Influenza.**—There is not any death registered from this disease during the year.

**Bronchitis and Pneumonia.**—There were 51 deaths registered from these diseases of the lungs, against 75 last year. The annual death-rate from these causes was equal to 2·8 per 1,000 living. By far the larger proportion occurred during the last quarter.

**Injuries.**—The number of deaths from injuries and accidents is five, two being from scalds, one from drowning, one from fracture of the leg, and one from being run over by a railway train. Three children were found dead in bed, and these are more probably due to overlying or suffocation than to natural causes.

**Isolation Hospital.**—The building at Wade Brook and the Marquee are kept in readiness for cases of small-pox, but the question of providing a new hospital has been discussed between this Urban and the County Councils, with a result that the former passed a resolution “agreeing to combine in the provision of an Isolation Hospital as recommended by the County Council.” In the meantime cases of infectious disease are isolated as much as possible in their own homes, are supplied with disinfectants free of cost; all children living in an infected house are prevented from attending school. When the case has terminated the house is disinfected by the Inspector, printed papers giving instructions how to deal with infectious diseases are also supplied to such cases. Unfortunately, there is no **Disinfecting Apparatus**, and the bedding does not get efficiently disinfected. There is urgent need for this apparatus, which might be obtained and used while waiting for the further development of the Hospital.

**Systematic Inspection.**—The town is divided into four parts for the purpose of inspection. Each part receives at least one visit every six weeks from the inspector. A large number of nuisances are dealt with in an informal manner and rectified as a result of these visits.

**Abatement of Nuisances.**—There have been 116 notices served for the abatement of various nuisances. In this way 23 cesspools have been converted into water closets, and 56 cesspools abolished, and pails supplied in their places.

Many old closets have been pulled down and reconstructed, also many ashpits reconstructed and closed in; 30 new ashpits have been built.

Systematic flushing of the sewers has been carried out, many lengths of drains and sewers relaid. New manholes and flushing eyes are being placed in the present system for the purposes of inspection and cleaning.

The street gullies are emptied and disinfected every week.

The Sewage Farm, which had subsided so badly as to interfere with its efficiency, has had one half raised, re-levelled and subsoiled; the settling tanks have also been raised and made more capacious.

There is at the present time a plan being constructed for the comprehensive sewerage of Castle. Of the 248 new houses which have been built during the year most are on the water carriage system.

Many cases of overcrowding have been dealt with during the year.

**Refuse Removal.**—The contractors who carry out the work are carefully supervised by Mr. Potts in his systematic peregrination; 251 notices have been served as against 600 last year. The house refuse is removed entirely outside the Council's district and deposited upon farms in the neighbourhood.

In the removal of house refuse there is one very objectionable feature, which might be remedied at a comparatively small cost relative to the great improvement which would accrue to the district in health and freedom from annoyance. If each pail were provided with a duplicate, so that a clean one might be provided when the full one was taken away, then the disgusting operation of emptying them under the windows and doors of houses would become unnecessary. The two pails would cost more at the outset, but would last twice as long as one doing double duty; and thus the greatest comfort given to many householders to whom the present system is one of gross annoyance, at a trifling cost.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**—These have been visited every three months by Mr. C. Potts, and each has been limewashed during the year.

**Slaughter-houses.**—These receive a visit each month, are clean and in good order, and have been periodically limewashed.

**Lodging-houses** have been periodically visited, and no infringements of the Act have been recorded.

**Canal Boats** have been inspected several times, with a result that owners have in many cases been called upon to paint, clean, and repair them, and these requests have been complied with.



**A** *Table of DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the Northwich Urban*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shewn as separate localities.  {Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.}	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.											
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3	4
Registration Sub-Districts of												
Northwich .....	295	117	51	12	6	65	44	{ Under 5	...	...	10	...
								{ 5 upwards.	...	...	1	...
Workhouse .....	23	...	1	1	...	7	14	{ Under 5	...	...	...	...
								{ 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Infirmary .....	9	...	1	1	2	5	...	{ Under 5	...	...	...	...
								{ 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
TOTALS...	327	117	53	14	8	77	58	{ Under 5	...	...	10	...
								{ 5 upwards	...	...	1	...

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	{ Under 5	...	...	...	...
								{ 5 upwards	...	...	1	...
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	...	...	1	1	1	5	7	{ Under 5	...	...	...	...
								{ 5 upwards	...	...	...	...

**[B]** *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases  
Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the Northwich Urban*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public Institutions being shewn as separate localities.  Registration Sub-District of  (a)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF KNOWLEDGE			
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.	Registered Births.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.
	(b)	(c)	(d)		1	2	3	4
Northwich .....	14,914	17,800	685	{ Under 5 ...	...	205	3	...
				{ 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
TOTALS.....	14,914	17,800	685	{ Under 5 ...	...	205	3	...
				{ 5 upwards	...	...	...	...

State whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District—Yes.









